

Section III:

Appendices

National 4-H Strategic Directions Team

Responsibilities of the National 4-H Strategic Directions Team

The National 4-H Strategic Directions Team (4-HSDT), a youth/adult partnership, has a major role in developing, envisioning, monitoring, and evaluating the National 4-H Strategic Plan. It is also the responsibility of this body to maintain the integrity and ensure the evolving character of this plan. 4-HSDT functions as the Base Program Strategic Team (BPST) for the Cooperative Extension System Base Program of 4-H Youth Development. Specifically, their roles are to:

1. Develop and communicate a national 4-H strategy that captures the vision and suggests strategic directions for the coming years. Conduct a broad-based strategy process every 3-5 years that addresses emerging social and youth-related issues as they relate to 4-H youth development.
 - a. Build and incorporate into the Cooperative Extension System an inclusive process for feedback.
 - b. Create and envision new approaches for how the 4-H youth development movement can have a worldwide impact.
 - c. Provide guidance for integration of graduated initiatives into the base program of 4-H Youth Development.
2. Scan the environment to identify emerging issues and modify the Strategic Plan as needed. Develop and maintain a process for identification and recommendation of faculty, staff, and youth/adult volunteer development needs.
 - a. Gather trend data and input from a diversity of people and different perspectives.
 - b. Provide a forum for all stakeholders.
 - c. Provide a means for youth to be heard throughout all levels of 4-H.
 - d. Review and integrate research from the fields of youth development, public policy, and community-based leadership. Use the information to guide recommendations and decisions.
3. Monitor and support the implementation of the national 4-H strategy with particular attention on recognizing youth as equal partners, access, equity and opportunity for all youth, the scholarship and practice of experiential learning, strengthening volunteer and professional development, advancing the field of youth development education, and striving for more effective organizational systems.
 - a. Work closely with the National 4-H Leadership Trust in overseeing implementation.
 - b. Monitor the progress towards the accomplishment of the principles and goals of the national 4-H strategic plan and communicate the results system-wide.
 - c. Collect and disseminate 4-H *Programs of Excellence* annually to demonstrate the progress of the plan and the impact of the programs.
 - d. Communicate throughout the Cooperative Extension System (CES) 4-H Youth Development Network the necessary information for measuring impacts and outcomes of 4-H Youth Development programs for required reports.

Membership and Time Commitment

Membership on the National 4-H Strategic Directions Team is representative and diverse. The criteria for reviewing membership applications, therefore, includes regional representation, stakeholder representation, and racial/ethnic/economic diversity. As applications are evaluated, every effort is made to identify representatives who bring perspective and experience from a broad range of 4-H Youth Development programs — including those programs that target youth in “at risk” environments, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) programs, and other expansion efforts.

Membership of the team is comprised of:

- 9 Youth (2 per region and 1 per 1890 representative)
- 4 Volunteers (1 per region)
- 4 State Program Leaders (1 per region)
- 1 Past SDT Chair (usually a State Program Leader)
- 1-2 CSREES representatives
- 1 Program Leadership Committee (PLC) representative
- 1 State 4-H Foundation Director
- 1 State 4-H Program Specialist
- 1 National 4-H Council representative
- 1 1890 Region representative
- 1 National 4-H Youth Development Council (N4-HYDC) intern
- 1 NAE4-HA representative
- 1 Agent-at-large representative

A seven-member executive committee is comprised of one volunteer, current SDT chair, past SDT chair, CSREES representative, National 4-H Council representative, N4-HYDC intern, and NAE4-HA representative.

The work of the N4-HSD is conducted through electronic communication, web-based technologies, listservs, monthly conference calls, and bi-annual meetings.

National 4-H Strategic Directions Team Roster

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Developing a 4-H Strategic Plan for a New Millennium

The new millennium begins the celebration of nearly one hundred years of excellence in the 4-H Youth Development movement. Building on this legacy, it has been recommended and approved for a comprehensive national strategic plan to be unveiled on the 100th anniversary of 4-H. The National 4-H Strategic Directions Team was charged with the task of formulating and directing the plan with the goal of reinventing 4-H youth development for the next generation of youth.

The 4-H Base Program Strategic Team conducted an open and inclusive planning process lasting 2 years, and involving input from hundreds of youth and adult stakeholders to 13 Discovery Teams. Through the work of the Teams, youth development experts, researchers, current stakeholders, and new audiences, new voices, and new perspectives were included in the input to ensure a diversity of ideas and expand programming opportunities.

Following is a copy of the Executive Summary of the new national 4-H Strategic Plan, *The Power of Youth in a Changing World*.

For a copy of the detailed strategic plan, visit our web site:
<http://www.4h-reeusda.org/4h/excellence/excellence.htm>